

KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ASTA POWERPROJECT AND ASTA EASYPLAN

Asta Powerproject's feature rich project management software is designed to plan, manage and track construction projects, whatever their size. Providing powerful functionality through an easy to use interface ensures projects are delivered successfully.

Asta Easyplan is a professional project management tool that is designed for those smaller construction projects. Whilst the functionality has been reduced to fit its purpose, the system has the same easy to use interface for planning and managing smaller projects.

Both Asta Powerproject and Asta Easyplan are 100% designed for the construction industry and have the same look and feel. Files are readily exchanged between the two systems, as well as alternative systems such as Microsoft Project, making it easy to share project plans with third parties.

Please note this is not a complete reference guide to the functionality of either Asta Powerproject or Asta Easyplan, however, it is intended to highlight the key differences between Asta Easyplan and Asta Powerproject.

ASTA EASYPLAN LIMITATIONS

- There is a limit of **250 tasks**.
- There is a maximum of **10 calendars**.
- There is a capacity limit of **10 tasks per bar**.
- Constraint flags are limited to **'start-on-or-after' flags**.
- There are no **Resource Breakdown Structure (RBS) and Cost Breakdown Structure (CBS) views**.
- A number of spreadsheet tokens are unavailable due to other features not being present. This includes all Earned Value Analysis tokens.

THE MAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SYSTEMS

► WIZARDS TO HELP YOU SET UP AND MANAGE YOUR PROJECTS

Asta Easyplan includes seven project wizards, which take you step-by-step through the task of setting up and managing your projects. Each wizard asks for certain information (like project name, project start date) in plain English and takes the answers you provide to build the plan.

► NO BUFFER TASKS OR INTERRUPTIBLE TASKS

In Asta Powerproject, you can create buffer tasks to use as contingencies to protect important dates. Interruptible tasks that represent activities that are able to start early and in which work can be interrupted at some point before the end of the task can also be created. Neither of these task types is available in Asta Easyplan.

► YOU CANNOT HIDE AND SHOW TASKS

In Asta Powerproject, you can hide specific bars and tasks in a project from view and then subsequently display them. You may want to do this to hide commercially-sensitive bars and tasks from the printouts that you give to your clients. You cannot hide and show tasks in Asta Easyplan.

► NO 'RESCHEDULE' FACILITY

When the dates of tasks are moved, Asta Easyplan does not offer the facility to 'reschedule' the project. This means that the end date of the project is not automatically recalculated based on the revised dates of the tasks. This needs to be done manually by moving the dates of tasks in the critical path of the project. However, the software does provide the ability to schedule activities from their earliest possible start position.

► NO CRITICAL PATH ANALYSIS

Asta Easyplan does not identify tasks in the critical path from a linked bar chart.

► NO 'FLOAT' OR 'SLACK' CALCULATION

Asta Easyplan does not calculate how much float there is for each task within a linked bar chart. Float indicates the amount of time by which a task can be delayed without delaying other tasks.

▶ **NO BASELINE FACILITY**

Asta Easyplan does not allow you to create baselines. A baseline is a record of all or any part of a project at a particular point in time. Baselines are useful for tracking the progress of a project and for experimenting with 'what if' scenarios.

▶ **POWERDRAW IS NOT INCLUDED**

Powerdraw is a free add-on package to Asta Powerproject, which allows you to customise the print border around your project. For example, you can add your own company logo and change other information if you wish. Asta Easyplan comes with a range of standard borders that you can use, however, these cannot be customised.

▶ **ANNOTATIONS CANNOT BE AUTOMATICALLY ASSIGNED TO MULTIPLE TASKS**

Annotations are text, graphics and objects that you can include on bar charts to highlight important information such as completion dates. Asta Powerproject allows you to create annotations on multiple tasks automatically. There is still the facility to add annotations in Asta Easyplan, however, each task needs to be annotated individually.

▶ **ORGANISING YOUR PROJECT INTO HIERARCHIES IS LIMITED**

Asta Powerproject allows you to organise tasks in your project into summary tasks, expanded tasks and 'hammocks'. Asta Easyplan allows you to create summary tasks only.

▶ **HISTOGRAM USE IS LIMITED**

Histograms are a useful resource management tool because they allow you to anticipate any fluctuations in resource usage and so avoid periods of over or under-allocation. In Asta Easyplan, you can view histograms and drill down or drill up through them, however, there is none of the additional functionality found in Asta Powerproject.

▶ **NO MACROS OR ADD-ONS ARE AVAILABLE**

Asta Development is able to provide macros or add-ons for Asta Powerproject, which can automate repetitive tasks so that you spend less time performing them manually. There are no macros or add-ons available for Asta Easyplan.

▶ **YOU CANNOT ORGANISE NEW RESOURCES OR COST CENTRES INTO GROUPS OR HIERARCHIES**

Asta Powerproject allows you to organise groups of resources into a hierarchical tree. For example you may wish to group permanent resources into 'Site Team' or 'Design Team'. In Asta Easyplan you can add new resources e.g. 'plumber' or 'Alan Smith' however, you cannot organise those new resources into groups, e.g. grouping a plumber or Alan Smith with a carpenter and a builder etc into a folder called 'Site team'. The same is true when you add new cost centres.

▶ **TOKENS (OR FIELDS) WITHIN TABLES ARE NOT CUSTOMISABLE**

With Asta Powerproject, you can create your own fields within tables in the database that is specific to your needs. For example, you might want to add fields for country codes or national insurance numbers, which are not included as standard tokens. However, in Asta Easyplan you cannot create your own fields in the tables.

▶ **ONLY ONE USER CAN WORK ON A PROJECT AT A TIME**

Asta Powerproject allows multiple users to modify the same project at the same time through the enterprise package, and the information is updated live. Network licensing is also available for Asta Powerproject. Only one user at a time can work on a project in Asta Easyplan, as it is available only as a standalone software licence.

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